

FRS NEWSLETTER

Volume 5- Issue # 29 - March 2001

Dear FRS-Holland Friend!

Welcome in this first 2001 edition. The start of what will hopefully become a much better year than 2000, which was of course completely overshadowed by the death of Joop ter Zee. A first hopeful initiative was the recent March 11th broadcast which went out very well. That day our team was joined by a new English presenter, Steven Reece doing his debut programme. Welcome Steven!! As a kind of closing off (in connection with Joop ter Zee) following the Sept. and Dec. editions, we publish parts of letters we received for the Oct. 29th/ Nov. 5th Joop ter Zee Memorial broadcast. But remember: in our heart Joop will remain a part of our team as long as FRS-Holland is alive... Keep on writing to our station, that was the best support we had in our first year and still is the most important thing in our 21st year!! Last but not least: we have a new mailing address >> P.O.Box 2702, 6049 BE Herten, the Netherlands,

73's, Peter V.

FRS tested on 31 metres (around 9300 kHz) in the early hours of Sun morning March 18th.

MAILBOX 2727

For the final time Mailbox 2727, the next time it'll be called '2702'. An overview of letters we received for the Oct. 29th/ Nov. 5th broadcast.

☐ "I was much impressed by the Memorial Broadcast. It was good to hear FRS in more than one language thus giving all listeners the chance to follow the programmes" wrote Matthias Martin in Spergau, Germany.

☐ Kari Kuusinen wrote that he is listening to pirates for about 22 years. "I started listening to Dutch 227 m medium wave pirates in the 1970s. I was very happy to hear FRS-Holland on 6280 today."

☐ "I heard your show with a smile on my face (20th birthday) and at the same time tears in my eyes (Joop's death). The pxs were full of memories. Many thanks for that!" This came from Rainer Brandt in Germany.

☐ Will Phillips wrote from Nottingham, UK: "I congratulate you on producing pxs of such high standard over the last 20 years. I am of course very sorry to hear of the death of your colleague Joop ter Zee and send you my sincere condolences."

☐ "It was very nice to hear so many nice words spoken about Joop ter Zee and to hear all those programme extracts from him from years gone by. With him one of the major parts of FRSH died. I really like all of his jingles" are the nice words coming from Ralf Pokar in Leonberg, Germany. He continued: "I hope FRSH will continue."

☐ From the Netherlands Henry Schuurman wrote the following words: "Reception was excellent. The Joop ter Zee Memorial Broadcast sounded very professional to me. Very good, all those extracts, appropriate records and listeners' involvement."

☐ Christophe Peucheret wrote from Copenhagen: "The quality of reception was quite good with a strong signal, almost no interference and slight noise."

☐ "Greetings from Coswig in Germany" wrote Michael Krüger. "It was great to hear another professional radio show from FRSH although the reason for the broadcast was very sad. From me a final thank you to Joop."

☐ "In these times it's indeed an exception that there exists 'something' for so long" were the words from long-time FRS supporter H.J. Müsseler in Cologne, Germany. "It is a long time ago I stayed so long behind my receiver on a Sunday morning. Congrats for being on air with a fantastic station. The death of Joop ter Zee is very sad."

☐ "I am very, very sad about Joop's death. It is unbelievable for me. His shows have always been funny and the music he played was interesting and far away from the stuff other stations play in their pxs. He was much to young to die. I remember the early 80s when I just had my driver's licence. I got a recording from one of Joop's shows (1983) and I think I have played it non-stop for half a year in my old VW Beetle". Thorsten Brandenburg in Munich, Germany, another all time FRS supporter..

☐ Felix Schäfer wrote (as always) a very long and interesting letter. "About last Sunday's px I must say that I really appreciated it! In my opinion this was exactly the right way to commemorate 20 Years of FRSH and Joop's passing away. He couldn't have done it better. And I think that it is in his sense that FRSH lives on. I must really say that Joop's death left me speechless and I admire those people who found such nice and comforting words. Keep on broadcasting."

☐ From Schwabhausen, Germany Uwe

Sennewald wrote: "Your pxs were super. Continue in this way! Although the situation you were in was very sad, you produced a great broadcast. I really must compliment you on that. Great music, the words from other listeners. The Joop ter Zee extracts with old jingles were an absolute highlight for me. The words on the cover of the September 2000 edition 28 deeply impressed me."

☐ "I enjoyed all those Joop ter Zee memories very much." Gerwin Schütte, Berlin in Germany.

☐ "I think Joop would have been very glad with the broadcast. Heartfelt contributions, fine music and last but not least well presented pxs" was the meaning from Jan van Heeren, Dordrecht, the Netherlands.

☐ Thomas Godschan from Cottbus, Germany thinks that "this was also a sad moment for all free radio listeners."

☐ One of our most loyal UK listeners is David Williams. "To me he was a great free radio deejay, I will miss him a lot over the airwaves. Yes, an excellent broadcast of FRSH. I was feeling very sad when I heard those old recordings from Joop. No way do you shut down FRSH, Joop ter Zee would not want you to do this sort of thing, you must carry on."

☐ "Via this letter I really want to thank you for an impressive Memorial Broadcast which I listened to till the very end." Josef Zimmermann, Velbert, Germany.

☐ Long time FRS listener Norbert Scheel from Berlin was happy to know so many listeners contributed to the October 29th show. "It proves people really appreciate the things Joop did, I'm sure they will never forget him."

☐ "The sound of the FRSH pxs was very much influenced by Joop's fresh and unique presenting style and his splendid taste of music. It was always a great pleasure tuning in to Joop's shows and I will miss him so much." These words came from a true FRSH supporter, Christian Bergmann living in Zeitz, Germany.

☐ "Good to learn that people still care about what happens. I was glad to hear the FRSH Memorial Show with so many listeners and stations taking part." Axel Röse, Neuss in Germany.

☐ "I heard almost the entire broadcast. Thanks for playing my contribution. The silence at approx. 12.00 CET made a deep impression on me. The idea to create an absolute silence in between all that great music you played...yes, it really moved me." The former OP of Radio Hotel Amigo.

☐ Horst Cersovsky from Sangerhausen in Germany: "When I heard your special programme in memory of Joop, I was deeply impressed and sad. Peter, you lost a good friend and we all lost a great free radio enthusiast."

Thanks to all of you for your letters and encouraging words.

FRS NEWSCORNER

October QSL

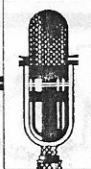
Joop ter Zee's girlfriend Willy produced a special QSL card which is the first one in our history dedicated to a person. We hope those of you having send a report in November, do like the QSL helping to never ever forget Joop ter Zee. Some very positive Emails were received shortly after the QSLs were sent, thank you!

X-Mas 2000

FRS-Holland would take to the air on X-Mas Eve Sun Dec. 24th. Would... Pxs were recorded including a 60 min. DX-Show. The tapes didn't reach their destination in time and so our final 2000 broadcast was sadly cancelled. As such pxs cannot be aired anymore weeks after X-Mas, they have found their place in the huge FRS-Holland archives. Perhaps a collector's item?

North American Tests

Sun Dec. 31st FRS-Holland carried out an early morning test to the USA from 05.00- 07.00 UTC. And we were successful being received by a number of USA DXers. Three weeks later, on the 21st of January, we once again tested, this time from 06.30- 07.30 UTC on 6289 kHz. Propagation was very good and FRS-Holland was received in fair quality on the US Eastcoast but also in Nashville Tennessee! As we used a VFO-controlled transmitter, we had to deal with some frequency drifting which kept the DXers busy as they had to retune their sophisticated receiving equipment quite often. Sorry vfor the inconvenience...normally we use crystal-controlled equipment. More info about Euro pirates crossing the Atlantic in the SW News Section.



FRS-Holland Future Activities

Sunday March 11th FRS-Holland took to the air with a 3¼ hour broadcast introducing a new voice, namely that of Steven Reece. From now on he's hosting the FRS Golden Show (English Service). An interesting item in his show is a Free Radio Spot featuring landbased radio stations from years gone by. Steven played some interesting nostalgic extracts from Radio Kaleidoscope, a highly respected and professional London-based AM/FM station in the early/mid 70s. The March 11th broadcast also featured a 45 min. DX-Show plus Mark Jones's "Off Beat" in German and not to forget Peter Verbruggen's FRS Magazine... The latter programme will feature some fresh new items next broadcast. By the way: later this year we hope to complete our broadcasting team with a 4th voice. When the next broadcast will take place is uncertain. But as soon as we have a date in mind, you will be informed via Email a few days before the actual broadcast takes place. Provided your Email address is stored in our address book. If not, just let us know.

New: FRS E-News

We have introduced the E-(lectronic) News which will be forwarded to all of you who are stored in our Internet addressbook. The E-News will be sent on an irregular basis. Edition #1 was sent on Monday Febr. 5th. The E-News is all about FRS-Holland and has no connection whatsoever with the FRS Newsletter.

Internet Addresses

<frsh@club.tip.nl>, <frsh@go.to> or
<peter.verbruggen@tip.nl>.
Website: <http://frsh.club.tip.nl> or
<http://go.to/frsh>.

For reasons of reorganization, we were forced to change address, much against our wish. The most annoying/frustrating thing is that a lot of our jingles/promos containing the 2727 address are useless and have to be replaced. And that costs a lot of time.

Don't worry....all mail being sent to P.O.Box 2727 will be automatically redirected to the new address till the end of this year!!

If there are station OPs willing to make use of P.O.Box 2702...just contact us. We offer a quick and reliable service.

NEW ADDRESS....NEW ADDRESS....NEW ADDRESS....

As from Febr. 1st FRS-Holland can be reached via:

P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, the Netherlands

SW FREE RADIO SCENE

General

This SW News Sections covers the period December 17th 2000- March 18th 2001 emphasizing on the Febr./March period. Conditions have been very good on most Sundays in the New Year. That resulted in much activity on 48 & 41 metres. Some new stations have joined the evergrowing number of SW free radio stations and bands have been overcrowded. Unfortunately it is a fact that some of the high power stations cause much sideband splatter, especially in the 6275-6315 kHz section. Victim are those stations not using such high power. We do not campaign openly against the use of high power txs but we'd only like to point out that adjusting the modulation could result in (much) less splatter thus not causing QRM to some of the smaller stations. Not only the conditions have been excellent for the European audience, since late December we have had extremely favourable propagation for crossing the Atlantic as well. Testing to North America was something extraordinary in the late 70s when European Music Radio was (as far as we know) the first European station trying to reach North America (with 10W). Nowadays it's nothing special. Since the New Year every weekend Euro pirates have been monitored in North America, in many cases with fair to even good signals. Of course this led to much enthusiasm among a number of US DXers....As an example here's Andrew Yoder's comment following reception of many stations Dec. 31st 2000: "Wow, my last time to listen in the millennium was also my best ever in terms of number of stations-nine different, six of them new for me! I'm really bummed out that I missed FRS Holland again-test was just too early. (luckily others succeeded in picking up FRSH that morning-PV). I discovered that a local park/baseball field near

Mont Alto, Pennsylvania has electric power. I drove down at 1:45 AM, set up everything, and ran an antenna across the baseball field & into the surrounding fields in the dark. I'm guess that the antenna was about 500-800 feet long. I sat in the back seat of my VW Golf with the Kenwood R-5000 & cassette deck on the deck. I kept my feet & legs warm in my daughter's Winnie the Pooh sleeping bag (I don't think this enhanced reception any, but you never know." Some additional info: Andrew Yoder is currently writing his third book entitled "Pirate Radio Stations: Tuning in to Underground Broadcasts". A few interesting websites: <www.hobbybroadcasting.com> and <users.desupernet.com/ayoder>. Email: <ayoder@cvt.net>. Snailmail: Andrew & Yvonne Yoder, Cabinet Communications, Premium Collectibles, P.O. Box 642, Mont Alto, PA 17237, USA.

Dec. 30th, 17.00 hours Alfa Lima was heard in the USA on 21889 with SIO=455 !! The signal was so good that reception was possible on a portable radio!

Dec. 31st saw reception of FRS-Holland on 6290, RECH/VOTN on 6285 & 7485, Radio Black Arrow & Foxfire on 6235, Radio Mi Amigo on 6275, Radio Marabu 6210, Laser Hot Hits 6219, 6241 USB R. East Side (100 watt test transmission to NA) and UK Radio 6266.

Jan. 14th: 7445 Ozone Radio, 6305 Alfa Lima Int., 6266 UK Radio, 6219 Laser Hot Hits, 6211 & 6295 Unids.

Jan. 21st: 6290 FRS-Holland, 6292 & 6302 Radio Perfekt, 6210 Union Radio, 6310 Wonderful (via Blue Star), 6207 XTC, 6270 Delta Lima Radio and 6210 Union Radio.

Jan. 28th: 6305.83 Union Radio, 6220 West Side R. (via JRR), 7480 BBMS, 6244 XTC Radio, 7489 R. Black Arrow, 6210 R. Borderhunter, 6273.7 Apollo Radio.

Febr. 4th: 6235 Radio Foxfire, 6210 Union Radio, 6400 Astoria Radio, 6212 Free wave Radio, 6281 West Coast Radio, 5805 RFL, 7474 BBMS/Ozone, 6267 UK Radio, 6310 Radio Lisa, 6290 Alfa Lima Int., 12256 Wrekin R. Int., 6220 Laser Hot Hits, 21885 Alfa Lima Int. (later in the afternoon).

Febr. 11th: 6290 Free Wave Radio, 6210 R. Marabu, 6305 R. Shadowman, 7474 BBMS, 6206 Staunder Radio, 6267 U.K. Radio, 6400 Astoria Radio, 6299 Radio East Coast Holland, 6306 Radio Northlight, 6219 & 7459 Laser Hot Hits, 7480 Radio Benelux.

Febr. 18th: 6300 R. Alfa Lima Int., 9290 R. Nova Int., 6271 R. Dr. Tim (50W), 6289 Free Wave Hit Radio, 6240 Unid, 6400 Astoria Radio, 7480 Ozone Int., 6266 Unid, 6273 West Coast Radio, 3935 Laser HH, 6200 Unid, 6267 UK Radio, 5805 RF London, 6306 Radio Blue Star, 6245 Unid, 6280 Unid.

Febr. 25th: 6282 R. Black Arrow, 6270 Radio Perfekt, 6295 Mike Radio, 6210 Borderhunter, 6289 Radio Nova, 6306 Tower Radio, 6235 Foxfire, 6220 Laser HH, 6285 West Coast Radio, 6267 UK Radio, 6245 Radio Grenslender, 6271 Radio Dr. Tim, 7451 Ozone/BBMS, 7480 Radio Benelux, 12256 Wrekin R. Int.

March 4th: 6210 R. Argus (presumably via R. Borderhunter), 6927 Alfa Lima Int, 6300 R. Shadowman, 6950 R. Black Arrow, 6245 R. Grenslender, 6309 Mike R., 6210 R. Borderhunter, 9290 R. Nova Int., 7444 BBMS, 12256 Wrekin R. Int., 6234 Unid, 6305 Unid, 6950 Unid, 7480 CWR, 11469 SWRS, Unid 6305, 15069 Alfa Lima Int.

March 11th: 6210 R. Borderhunter, 6238 Jolly Roger R Int., 6266 UK R., 6270 Transatlantic R., 6275 R.Scotland, 6281Dr.Tim, 6284.Station Schotte, 9290 R. Nova Int., 6292 Mike R., 6298West Coast R., 6305 Spaceman R., 7446 BBMS, 15070 Alfa Lima Int.

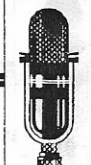
Best time for continental Euro pirates: 07.00- 08.30 UTC, for UK and Irish stations 08.00-09.30 UTC. All these loggings came from Andrew Yoder and Dave Valko (majority).

☐ **ABC 94FM** was testing Sat/Sun Jan.13th/ 14th on 6940 kHz with non-stop jingles. Pxs were announced to be starting the following weekend. Email: <abc94fm@esatclear.ie>.

☐ **RADIO ALFA LIMA** (3) has been very successful with its 13 mb broadcasts on 21889 kHz. Without any problem, the station made it several times across the Atlantic. Also on 48 metres RAL was heard in North America. In Europe the station is to be heard with excellent signal quality each Sun morning in the 6280-6300 range. Power is some 400W. Friday March 2nd at 00.00 UTC Alfa Lima International was testing on 15070 kHz. It was said that the antenna wasn't 100% properly matched to te tx. Email: <alinter@rendo.dekooi.nl>.

☐ **RADIO ARGUS** from the UK, in fact a London based AM station, was rarely heard on 6260 on X-Mas Day. The following day Argus was heard on 6205 kHz. Aired was a "Catman Jack Show". It seems Argus has a low-powered 20W tx, the X-Mas broadcasts were made via Radio Borderhunter. Add is 9 The Hollies, N11 2EA London, UK.

☐ **RADIO ASTORIA** (3) uses the following Email address: <radioastoria@hotmail.com>. Sun Jan. 28th saw the station on 6274. Unfortunately the signal was affected by utility-QRM and a strong



powerhouse on the upperside of the signal. Febr. 4th Astoria made a successful test to North America on 6400 kHz. Power is approx. 200W.

► Over the X-Masperiod a **RADIO ATLANTIS** was active on 6950 with non-stop offshore jingles. Signal quality was good.

► **RADIO BANDONICA** (3) was heard on 6280 Sat March 10th. The broadcast was in co-operation with VOTN. Signal quality was fine. Bandonica usually broadcasts on 11480 kHz.

In recent months **RADIO BENELUX** was regularly logged on 7480 with nice, strong signals despite the low powered 35W (?) tx. Sun Dec. 17th saw the final 2000 broadcast. Sun Jan. 28th BNL and Ozone clashed, both stations were on or close to 7480 kHz. As a result BNL contacted Ozone's Gary Stevens via Email. Jens Martin pointed out that BNL has been using 7480 for many years. He made clear there are a handful of suitable freqs on 41 metres, for instance 7470, 7470 & 7485 kHz. Gary Stevens responded that he was seriously considering using 7480 at a regular basis. He hadn't observed any activity in the past four weeks. He proposed BNL would be looking for a slightly higher freq. Ozone was intending to use 7480 every Sun morning 07.00-11.00 UTC. Of course BNL did not agree simply because the station is using 7480 for already many years. Jens Martin: this is not my problem but Ozone's. Sun Febr. 4th Ozone was on 7474 kHz avoiding further problems. BNL was shortly to be heard on 7480. Late February the problem was finally solved: Ozone/BBMS are using 7480 when BNL is off air. When BNL is on, Ozone/BBMS are looking for another freq, for instance 7474 kHz. Sun Febr. 25th BNL made it across the Atlantic on 7480. But the modulation didn't sound very clear. Also Sun March 4th when BNL was on 7480, there were serious problems with the modulation. The audio seemed to be very distorted, the overall audibility was very poor. Looked like something went wrong in the mod stage of the tx. BNL offers new music bands a chance playing demo tapes. Address is P.O.Box 73, 7160 AB Neede in the Netherlands.

► **RADIO BLACK PANTHER** returned on SW Sun Jan. 14th following a long absence. The station was heard with fine signals on 6204, 6205 and 6207. Originally Black Panther is a medium wave station but just like many of its colleagues the station started also SW trms. Address is P.O.Box 1104, 8001 BC Zwolle (Blue Star Radio add!).

► **RADIO BLACK POWER** was heard with very strong signals on 6281 Sun Jan. 28th. The signal was splashing some +/- 30 kHz! Add is P.O.Box 128, NL-9410 AC Beilen in the Netherlands.

► **RADIO BLUE STAR** was heard in the USA on Sat Dec. 23rd. A Dxr living 60 km north of New York heard Blue Star on 6308 with a SINPO of 34443! Add is P.O.Box 1104, 8001 BC Zwolle.

► **RADIO BORDERHUNTER** can be contacted via Email: < borderhunter@hotmail.com >. All "normal" post should be sent to: P.O.Box 44 in B-2387 Baarle-Nassau, Belgium.

► **RADIO BRIGITTE** celebrated its anniversary Thursday February 8th. On that day 21 years ago OP Frans van Rompay started his pirate activities. Radio Brigitte can be regularly heard on 48 metres but also outside this band, for instance between 6.5-6.6 MHz. Congrats to the OP and realize when writing you can always expect something special in return. Add is P.O.Box 15, B-2320 Hoogstraten in Belgium.

► **RADIO COCHIGUAZ** celebrated February 1st its 4th birthday. The station originates from South America and numerous Euro pirates have been relayed by the station in these 4 years.

► German **CRAZY WAVE RADIO** was heard on 7480 Sun March 4th. It was the first trm following a few months' absence. CWR has no mailing address. Email: < chrissie@gmx.net >.

► **RADIO CUPIDO** announced a broadcast on 21890 kHz/ 13 mb for Sun Jan. 28th. Pxs started at 12.00 UTC and output was 50W. On Sun Febr. 18th yet another 13 mb broadcast was announced on 21890 kHz starting at 14.00 UTC. Add is P.O.Box 9, 8096 ZG Oldebroek in the Netherlands. Email: < cupidioradio@hotmail.com >. Website: < www.cupidioradio.cjb.net >

► Sun Dec. 10th 2000 saw the final broadcast of **Radio CLCG** after being on SW for 17 years. "Successor" of CLCG is **RADIO DEVALON INT.** (9) which will take to the air on the first or second Sun in April. We must stress however that the only connection between both station is presenter Steve Young who hosted pxs for CLCG since 1983. For the rest Devalon is a fully independent from CLCG!! Pxs could perhaps sounds like CLCG because of Steve Young developing his very own style of presentation over the years.

► Derek Taylor, **DPRS**, has retired now. But it's all in the family...his daughter does the service now. Email: < dprs2001@bushinternet.com > BTW, the DPRS is entirely concentrating on forwarding mail of Dutch medium wave stations. No QSL business!!

► **RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND** (3) was heard on 6300 kHz Sun January 28th. According to an Email which was sent a few days prior to the trm, the station made use of a high power tx using Eimac 4-1000A tubes. Sun Febr. 11th RECH was heard on 6299 (with high power) and during that broadcast a call from Australia was received!!

Dec. 31st **RECH/VOTN** (3) were on the air with their traditional New Year's Eve broadcast. Just like in 1999, two freqs were in use. At approx. 07.00 UTC 6285 (150W) and 7485 (800W) were in use but due to qrm on 6285, freq was changed to 6300. Two hotlines were in operation during the live marathon trm. Less than 30 min. after the txs were on air, the two Ops received a telephone call from North America. In addition the 7485 signal was received in Sidney, Australia and in New Zealand at 08.25 and 07.10 resp.! Some 35 letters were received, certainly a very nice result. Emails: < magtegl@rendo.dekoci.nl > and < votn@freemail.nl >.

► **EAST ROCK RADIO** is Germany's most eastern SW pirate. The station started March 15th 1998 via Irish JRR on 6280 and celebrates its 3rd birthday this month. ERR plays mainly German language rock, preferably from former GDR bands. Dec. 24th & 31st saw the station's 5th and 6th broadcast via JRR and early January a relay via the IRRS took place. The station changed address and can be reached via SRS Germany, P.O.Box 1136 in D-06201 Merseburg. Email: < eastrockradio@surfeu.de >. Early April the station will celebrate its 3rd birthday, a special broadcast will be aired via the IRRS.

► **RADIO EAST SIDE** was testing to North America Dec. 17th, 24th and 31st. Each test ran from 06.00 - 06.45 UTC with a 100W tx. On the 31st the station was indeed being received on the other side of the Atlantic. Jan. 8th/9th 2000 marked the official start of RES on 6261 kHz. One year later, January 28th 2001, the station celebrated its 1st anniversary with a two hour show on 6242 kHz. Congrats! Those sending a rec. report to RES, automatically receive the latest edition of "East Side News". Thurs Jan. 18th RES conducted a brief test on 6243 using a new Inverted "V" Antenne. Two days later saw another antenna test. Email: < eastside@online.de >. Website: < www.radio-east-side.online.de >. Address is P.O.Box 1136 in D-06201 Merseburg, Germany.

► According to SRS News **RADIO FANTASTICO** (10) is a new station conducting tests on 21440 kHz Sun Febr. 25th. Nothing heard that weekend...

► Early February we were surprised by an Email telling the London pirate **RADIO FREE LONDON** would possibly be closing down late February after internal squabes. RFL has existed on and off since 1968 under different groups. Below is a message from station director Andy Walker. "RFL has been a regular feature on London's radio dial on 819kHz and 5805 kHz for many years. The whining and moaning has got to such a point now that the ground staff at RFL have decided to pull the plug on the station on Feb 25th. I've tried to talk round Myers but to no avail and I personally haven't got the energy anymore to carry on. I've got my own thing I'm doing at the moment and I have less and less time for RFL. There's one person who is to blame for all of this and it isn't Tony Randall (He knows who he is). Internal politics have got the better of all of us, which is a shame, because I think we are a good team, but in a few weeks time it will all die. Enough said!!" < www.radiofreelondon.co.uk >.

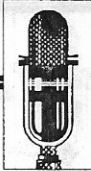
Comment from somebody: Yes, it is true that RFL will be closing down due to "internal differences" but those differences are known to only a few people. It's a pity that such a situation has arisen where a station of such standing has been allowed to degenerate to that extent, but it seems that personalities and perceived self-importance have taken over (same old story isn't it?) That's the way things go..... Febr. 25th RFL was- just like all the other weeks so far in 2001- on 5805 kHz. Unfortunately we were not able to tune in to SW that Sun but we may assume those were the final pxs?? Would be a bad thing as one more station seriously concentrating on a decent programming (and putting out good pxs) leaves the airwaves....

► If you listened on SW on Sun Jan. 14th, you may have been confused by hearing a station using several names such as **FREE RADIO FROM HOLLAND**. Vrije Radio vanuit Nederland, Vrije Radio, Free Radio. All names relate to one person who used to be very frequently on air in the 80s and 90s. A strong signal was heard on 6275 Jan. 14th and when reading the add, many Dxers must know the connection with the old (and well-known) name... Add is P.O.Box 65, 7260 AB Ruurlo in the Netherlands.

► **RADIO FOREVER** can be reached via (9).

► **FREE WAVE RADIO** can be reached via P.O.Box 154, 8090 AC Wezep, the Netherlands. The station will be changing to a new address in the not too distant future. Sun Febr. 4th the station was heard on 6212 but was too close to Union on 6210. The result: qrm. Mon Febr. 6th & Tue 7th modulation tests were carried out around 6290, results were very satisfactory.

► British **RADIO GERONIMO** was heard a few times lately. X-Mas Eve (Sun Dec. 24th) Geronimo was on 60 metres (4.8 MHz) and 31 metres with a X-Mas px hosted by Peter V. Reports from Norway, Gimstad (45444), Germany (44444) and the UK (55555) showed how well 31 metres can do with only 25W! Sun Jan. 7th Geronimo was on 31 metres 9330 using a whip aerial. Tuesday Jan. 16th a test was conducted on 4825kHz which gave better results in the UK than 6290 kHz/ 48 metres. Sun Jan. 28th a mailbag show hosted by Peter V. Was heard on 6301 kHz. Later that same day 9330 kHz was in use. Chris Watson made a short broadcast Sunday Febr. 11th on 9330



kHz/ 31 metres. Email: <geronimo@hotmail.com>. Address is 64 Brighton Rd, Leicester LE5 0HA in the UK.

☐ **GOLD FM** from Ireland announced tests on 6940 kHz from 21.00 UTC Friday Jan. 19th and at various times over the weekend of Jan. 20th/21st. Reports could be sent to <bgaffney@esatclear.ie>.

☐ **RADIO GRENSWINKEL** (not to be confused with Grenslander!) is a new Dutch station which was first heard on Sun Jan. 21st on 6240 qso-ing with VOTN. Signal was not very strong. Email: <grenswinkel@aol.com>. Snailmail: P.O.Box 1732, D-48578 Gronau, Germany. No further details.

☐ **RADIO JOYSTICK** returns to the air via the IRRS March 24th.

☐ **JRRI** is now using 6235 kHz as too many free radio stations are active on or close to 6240 kHz. At present time JRR is running 60 W but this will be upped to 160W after some modification of the main rig. By now this should have been finished and JRRI should have returned to 6239 with 160W. Internet: <listen.to/jrri/>. Email: <jr_radio@hotmail.com>. Add is P.O.Box 39, Waterford in Ireland. JRRI is relaying stations like Radio 510, Radio Cochiguaz, Radio Blandengue and Laser Hot Hits.

☐ **RADIO KILOHERZ** is currently only to be approached via Email: <kiloherz@hotmail.com>. Sun Jan. 21st the station was noted on 6240.

☐ **RADIO KORAK INT.** continues with weekly International programmes on 3927/ 76 metres. Signal quality is excellent. Add is P.O.Box 134, 3780 BC Voorthuizen in the Netherlands. Dec. 16th/17th, Dec. 23rd,

☐ **LINDA RADIO** can be heard with irregular tests on SW 6205. The station is making use of a 3 metre indoor antenna wire connected to an antenna tuning unit. Power is 10W. Tx is a Kenwood TS-440-S. The station is currently looking for a mailing address.

☐ **MAGIC AM** from the Netherlands was heard Sun Dec. 16th. The station uses the well-known P.O.Box 94, 7038 ZH Zeddam address. Email: <magic@broadcast.demon.nl>.

☐ **RADIO MARABU** was heard Sat and Sun March 10th/11th on 6210. Signal strength was good and so was the modulation. Address is Box 1166, D-49187 Belm in Germany. Email: <info@radiomarabu.de>.

☐ British **RADIO MI AMIGO** has been testing a number of times on 6950 kHz. Tony Stevens of Radio Mi Amigo informs that he is currently doing some test transmissions in order to find a location for his 500 Watts transmitter. The station is looking for a German and a Dutch deejay. Sun March 11th the station was heard with a moderate signal on the continent. Certainly no 500W... Address is P.O.Box 53, Bilston, West Midlands, WV14 6YS, UK.

☐ **RADIO NOVA** (UK) was on air from Dec. 24th through Boxing Day Dec. 26th. On 6280 an excellent signal was put out. Nova pxs are well presented and contain a wide variety of pop music with lots of oldies. Sat/ Sun Jan. 27th/28th Nova was logged on 6290 kHz with continuous programming. Sun Febr. 18th Nova started a series of tests on 9290 kHz lasting all week long (24 hours per day). Already that same day the station was heard with fine signals in the USA! According to engineer Terry Phillips the tests were very successful. Daytime reception should be best, although early pm seems to be good for Europe too. The rig is running 2 x 807 valves, so power is 60-70watts. Sun February 25th- at the same day RFL was closing down- Nova celebrated its 1st anniversary with programmes on 6289 kHz. BTW, Nova was also heard on Sat Febr. 24th. Signal quality was excellent, good modulation too. Pxs were moderated by Keith Archer & Terry Phillips. From now on there's also a regular German Service on R.N.I. presented by Mike Anderson who used to be on European Music Radio and who was Radio Nordsee's anchorman (not the R.N.I. below!). Also a Dutch Service is part of Nova's output, hosted by Frank Carson. Sun March 4th the pxs of the previous week were repeated, once again on 6289. Also this time a fine signal was provided to the DX audience in Western Europe. At the same time Nova was celebrating its 1st anniversary on 48 metres, a test loop tape was running on 9290 kHz/32 MB with non-stop popmusic interspersed by announcements from Terry Phillips telling the audience it was a test. Signal quality on 9290 was excellent! Sun March 11th Nova was again on 6290 and at the same time tests were running on 9290. Signalks were solid as ever. Nova Email: <confused@onmail.co.uk>. However, Terry P. informed that this address will be soon changed. Snailmail: 64 Brighton Rd, Leicester LE5 0HA in the UK.

☐ **R.N.I. WS** returned on the airwaves in January. Four days in a row, from Wed 24th till Sat 27th there were afternoon tests on 6206 and 6211 kHz. In #28 we reported that RNI would be ceasing trms, the final one took place Oct. 29th 2000. But now it seems that RNI WS simply continues on 48 metres. Sat and Sun Febr. 10th/11th R.N.I. was again heard on 6206. It will take some time until regular shows will resume. Address: P.O.Box 2209, D-77612 Offenburg in Germany.

☐ News from **OZONE RADIO**: due to interference Radio Ozone/BBMS changed frequency from 7445 to 7480 kHz. See also Radio Benelux. Sun Febr. 25th and March 4th Ozone was on 7445 kHz with fair signal strength. Add is 85 Hillside Rd West, Suffolk, NR35 RH in the UK. Email: <bbms4ozone@compuserve.com>.

☐ **RADIO PERFEKT** made a successful attempt to reach North America on Sun morning Jan. 21st. Due to FRSH qrm (the vfo-controlled FRS tx was drifting to 6292 where Perfekt was in action), Perfekt switched to 6302. Sun Febr. 17th Radio Perfekt should have been celebrating its 10th birthday but the special programming had to be cancelled due to private circumstances. Sun Febr. 25th saw at long last the actual 10th birthday broadcast on 6270. Radio Perfekt is one of the very few country stations on SW (together with French R.W.I.). Email: <Radio-Perfekt@t-online.de>. Add is P.O.Box 1732, D-48578 Gronau in Germany.

☐ **RADIO PIRADA INTERNATIONAL** intends to resume broadcasts, probably as from May onwards. RPI used to be active in Europe but some years ago Jorge Garcia returned to South America. That means that any future activities will be aimed at South America although reception in Europe is possible when propagation allows. Add is RPI, Casilla 159, Santiago 14, Chile. Email: <rpi@write.com>.

☐ **PIRATE RADIO ADDRESS LIST**: <www.listen.to/pwdh>. The Pirate Radio Address List contains over 1800 (!) addresses from SW and medium wave stations covering the period 1994-2001. You can get yourself a written version, costs depend on where you are living. For more info check the website!

☐ New on SW: **RADIO OMROEP ZUID** (ROZ), a station transmitting from the southern part of the Netherlands was heard for the very first time on SW 6240 kHz Sun Febr. 18th. Sat Febr. 24th saw the station on 6241 with non-stop hit music. Also on Sat March 3rd 6240 was occupied, a strong signal was heard. Sun March 11th ROZ was noted on 6285 and 6295. The station is using a Rohde & Schwarz SK 010 with 35 Watt and a 1/4 vertikal aerial. Email: <roz.am@iae.nl>. No more details.

☐ **RADIO POWERLINER INT.** was heard on 6286 Sun Febr. 4th. Signal quality was good. Some 75W are in use, add is P.O.Box 128, NL-9410 AC Beilen, The Netherlands. Internet: <www.powerliner.cjb.net>. Email: <kolibrie-radio@hetnet.nl>.

☐ **RADIO RAPIDO**: <www.rapido.org.uk>. New Email: <rapidorapido@europa.com>.

☐ **RADIO ROW BOX** is a new station which was heard with a good signal on 6260 Sun Jan. 21st. Popmusic and synthesizer Ids were heard. For the time being the station is only to be reached via Email: <radiorowbox@hotmail.com>.

☐ **SANTA CLAUS OVERTRIVE** (10) remains a mysterious station only broadcasting once a year. X-Mas Day the station was heard with a rather weak signal on 6205.

☐ **SCANDINAVIAN WEEKEND RADIO** was heard on 11690 kHz Sat Febr. 3rd all Sat long. The independent legal non-commercial Finnish station (legal pirate...) is broadcasting since the Summer of 2000 at a monthly basis. Power is only 50W and connected to a half wave dipole hanging some 20 metres above the ground, unfortunately not enough to provide Western Europe with a decent signal. Max. Power is 250W. SWR is ran by persons who have a background in pirate broadcasting. Studio and transmitting equipment are located in Virrat, (West) Finland. Snailmail: P.O. Box 35, 40321 Jyv-Skyl-, Finland. Telefon: 00358 400 995 559 - only during the 1st Sat of the month. Email: <info@swradio.net> Website: <www.swradio.net>.

☐ Sun Jan. 14th **RADIO SHADOWMAN** carried out a successful North America test. Well-known Dxer Dave Valko received the station on 6274 kHz. Add is P.O.Box 578, 7900 AN Hoozeveen. Email: <ccoelingh@freeler.nl>.

☐ **RADIO SKYLINE** was testing a new rig on 6245 Sat Febr. 10th. The new tx has a max. output of 100W but usually some 40W are radiated. Add is P.O.Box 73, NL-7160 AB Neede or (10).

☐ **STARSHINE AM** (9) is a joint project from the Radio Sunshine and Stardust OPs. Email: <radio-stardust@gmx.de>. Jan. 13th/14th Starshine was noted with good signals on 7120 via the IRRS.

☐ **THE SW RELAY SERVICE** (1) from Italy announced regular tests on Saturday March 3rd 17.00-23.00 UTC and Sun March 4th at 08.30-19.00 UTC on 11470 kHz AM. On the 11th the station was also on 11470, later in the afternoon. Reception reports via Email: <swrs@usa.net>. During the tests a new tx and antenna were tested. In the past SWRS was mainly on air using the USB mode, with the introduction of AM the audibility should be much better, for listeners this means much more fun to listen to SWRS. No doubt this was proved when listening to the tests on Sun March 4th. A strong, clear and well-modulated signal was provided to listeners in Western Europe leading to the question how much power is currently run? For more info you should check their website @: <www.swrs.org>. Thursday, March 1st the SWRS was heard in New Zealand at 18.27 local time. Sinpo was 25343.

☐ Sunday Dec. 17th a station calling itself **RADIO TARA INT.** (1) was heard with its debut broadcast on 7375 kHz/ 41 metres at 12.00 UTC. Signal was moderate. 34333 as Radio Tara International. Email: <radiotara@ireland.com> or perhaps better: <radiotara@hotmail.com>. Boxing day the station was noted on 6298 kHz. Tara is an Irish station only



using 15W which is not enough to reach Western Europe with good signals. The station uses the JRRJ address in Waterford.

☐ **RADIO Dr. TIM** (9) made a long distance test in the early hours of Sun Jan. 14th. The station was on air with a 70W tx and good reception was reported in for instance Finland. Email: <doctortim@t-online.de>. New website: <www.doctortim.de>.

☐ **RADIO TONAIR** announced via Email that their website and Radio Torenvalk's have been closed because the sites were a number of times visited by Dutch authorities. In this way the authorities could get hold of infos regarding illegal SW activities and links to other SW sites. The P.O.Box 21 in Gaanderen address has closed down taking effect immediately. Instead you can write to the R.T.I. P.O.Box 94 in 7038 ZH Zeddam in the Netherlands or send an Email to: <radiotonair@hotmail.com>.

☐ **TOWER RADIO** (see #28) was heard several times over the X-Mas period but also during numerous occasions in the New Year. Sat Febr. 24th/ Sun Febr. 25th Tower Radio was on air with no less than 1 kW. If we may believe certain reports, the station plans to go on air with 5 kW.... Where's the end?? Sat/Sun March 10th /11th Tower was heard all day on 6306. The station was challenging the Dutch RDR, the authority responsible for tracking down illegal broadcasters. In our eyes not very clever to show such attitude being on air. Email: <radiotower@netmail.nl>. Snailmail: P.O.Box 49, 7475 ZG Markelo, the Netherlands.

☐ **TRANSATLANTIC RADIO** uses the following Email add: <transatlantic@planet.nl>. Sun Dec. 25th TAR put out a free radio review 2000. Full marks on that show, well done!! Johnny McAllan hosted it. Early January the station's tx went on fire... Too much power??? Since this year TAR is quite active with Internet radio. Perfectly legal.... Transatlantic has been informing several people via Email to check <166.90.148.115:14364/> for weekend "broadcasts". You need WinAmp or RealPlayer for the audio. Add is P.O.Box 4427, 3006 AK Rotterdam, The Netherlands. This add is also used by Radio Flamingo.

☐ **UNION RADIO** (3) from the Netherlands was heard a number of times on 6210 but also on 6305 and 6400. In January a number of early morning tests were conducted trying to reach the Northern American continent. No doubt the station was successful, a few times strong reception was reported!

☐ A "new" Dutch station is named **RADIO VICTORIA**.. In fact Radio Victoria is another name for Radio Black Arrow. The name Victoria is used for medium wave trms while Black Arrow is the name on SW. Address is P.O.Box 128, 9410 AC Beilen. Email: <lvictoria@wxs.nl>.

A real new station is another **RADIO VICTORIA** coming from the southern part of the Netherlands (surrounding area of Eindhoven). This station has no snailmail address but you can contact them via Email:

<radiovictoria@planet.nl>. This station was heard on 6276 Sun March 4th. Signal was strong despite the low power (EL84= 10W).. A week later, on the 11th Victoria was on 6270 and 6276.

☐ **VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS** (3) could be heard on several occasions with mostly brief trms. Febr. 18th the station tested with a small 10W rig on 6199. Signal was fair. Email: <voth@hotmail.com>.

☐ **RADIO WAVES INT.** (4) didn't have a good start of the New Year: on Mon Jan. 1st the modulator of the 26 mb tx broke. During Jan. And Febr. RWI was relayed twice via Radio 510 Int/ IRRS on 7120 kHz. See their webpages for more details <http://go.to/rwi>.

☐ New Dutch station on 48 metres: **WEST COAST RADIO**. Sun Jan. 21st WCR was heard on 6245, 6271 & 6295 (as well as a few other freqs) with a loud and clear signal. The OP mentioned De Hague as location, he was mainly qso-ing. Add is Tulpestraat 10 A, NL-2223 HS Katwijk in the Netherlands. Sun Jan. 28th WCR was again active on 48 metres. Also on weekdays the station was heard qso-ing with colleague stations. WCR uses a 50W R & S SK 010 tx connected to an Invetred V antenna. Email: <westcoast48@noknok.nl>.

☐ **RADIO WONDERFUL** announces that the next broadcast via the IRRS on 7120/3985 kHz will take place by the end of March. Email: <wonderful@web.de>.

☐ **XTC RADIO** was successfully testing to North America on 6207 Sun Jan. 21st. Add is 64 Brighton Road, Leicester LE5 0HA, UK.

RADIO CAROLINE NEWS

Radio Caroline

At the moment Radio Caroline is doing extremely well on satellite. The good news is that several former presenters have rejoined and that Caroline is now to be heard 7 days a week. All this good news is tempered by the worry that the Astra 1C satellite channel may soon be switched off, namely on Saturday March 31st. The FRS Newsletter reports....

The Future of Satellite

Let's first start summarizing the views of Caroline's Head of Music Mark Stafford towards Caroline's analogue/ digital satellite future. He confirms that it is now almost certain that March 31st 2001 the Radio Caroline analogue service on 19.2 East will cease to broadcast. Reason is that Flextech TV lose their major TV customer. As a result it is no longer viable or technically possible to put Caroline's audio out in isolation. This is outside of Caroline's control as the uplink to Challenge TV will cease on that day. It was expected that Caroline was secure till June 30th 2001 and then Caroline would have to look at an alternative broadcasting future. But now it will happen three months earlier! Caroline prefers a future with an analogue service on 19.2 East and a digital service on 28 East. But these are dreams and dreams do not pay bills. The reality is that a move to 28 East is a must to reach the majority UK audience. There are 4 million UK dishes on 28 East. By April this is likely to reach 5 million. By this summer only a few thousand will have dishes left on 19 East. Over the past 6 months Caroline management have researched transponder costs and they have been quoted £100,000 a year for a continued analogue transponder for 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. That is over 3 times what the station is paying now. The truth is currently even digital on 28 East will be difficult for Caroline to achieve financially. Digital and analogue is totally out of the question. Unless you can find the station on an analogue transponder on 19 east at £500 a month, with no attached costs! Even a Sirius analogue transponder is £2500 a month and only Scandinavians have their dishes on that! Caroline is very keen not to lose its continental European audience being heard in Munich, Amsterdam, Berlin and Barcelona. That can still happen but it will have to be with a digital receiver pointed at 28 East. 28 East as a satellite position is scheduled to grow with new Eutelsat satellites sharing the orbital position. The future is digital, no doubt about that! The truth is that in England you can't even buy a new analogue receiver anymore. A new free to air digital receiver can be found for just over £150. Caroline can't stop progress and it is better for Radio Caroline to be ahead with new technology by being digital than to stay analogue and to sit and wait for the listeners to go digital and week by week to see the audience reduce. That is what is happening now. No Englishman has bought a new analogue receiver in the last year, you simply can't!! Mark Stafford claims that Caroline has been looking at every way there is to remain on analogue and to reach the UK digital audience. It can't be done. Currently, people behind the station are fighting for a deal to continue in digital at 28 East. That is far from certain, as the costs are very high. So, even a digital future's uncertain. Digital is cheaper against current true market-price analogue satellite but not against Caroline's limited air-time bill at very competitive analogue rates. In addition, Caroline have no costs involved in feeding the signal to the satellite up-link for onward transmission to the Astra satellite. The reason is that the studio is at the up-link site!

Caroline have always been very well looked after by Flextech (the OPs of Challenge TV and the owners of the Maidstone studios) having received not only preferable rates for the airtime but also cheap broadcasting arrangements. The current Caroline deal is a run-on from the very competitive rates obtained in the deal set up by Peter Leutner, the former E.K.R. managing-director, at the time European Klassik Rock was set-up back in 1997. Caroline's satellite life began by buying airtime off EKR at EKR's cost price. When EKR closed in January 1999, Caroline approached Flextech for a deal at the same rates.

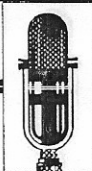
Caroline has a price from S.E.S. (the Astra organisation) for a full time channel and according to Peter Moore they are not so far short of being able to afford this but sadly Caroline still have to carry the studio costs and pay for sending the signal to the uplink. A second possibility is staying with Flextech as they can provide digital capacity on 28.2 degrees too. Talks are being held about costs and the possibility to have a part-time service. An interesting option to secure Caroline's satellite future is a new to launch Eutelsat satellite at a position of 28.5 degrees East. Any dish pointing at 28.2 will automatically receive signals from the new digital Eutelsat service. Most continental listeners' dishes are pointed at 19.2 degrees East but that should not prevent them from hearing future Caroline trms: a second small dish and a switch between the old and the new dish is the solution of the problem securing Caroline reception for the years to come. Of course: provided Caroline will make a successful deal within the not too distant future.

Audience Survey

On the Caroline websites there is a questionnaire. Caroline urges its listening audience to complete it and Email the results. Caroline hopes to discover an audience profile thus hoping to attract fresh backers and advertisers.

Other Caroline News

Starting Febr. 14th, Caroline is 7 days a week on the Astra satellite. In December the FRS Newsletter reported about plans of starting a new satellite service under the name of Radio Caroline South. Then it was thought it would be an independent satellite service but in the mean time Caroline South



has become a part of the Radio Caroline pxs on the Astra 1C satellite. Pxs are recorded in Northern Italy, very close to the frontier with the South of France. The pxs are produced by Europa Productions having their own website: < www.europaproductions.com >. Looking at the position where the shows are recorded, they are called Caroline South. Mid February Mark Dezzani, Tom Anderson and Rob Harrison started presenting shows on Wednesday. Grant Benson will join at a later stage. Mark Dezzani starts off the evening between 18.00-20.00 UTC followed by Rob Harrison presenting "Robbery in Progress" between 20.00-22.00 UTC. The final two hours are for Tom Anderson returning on radio with the legendary Overdrive programme. Since Febr. 21st Justin Hayward of Moody Blues fame presents the 19.00-20.00 slot. Caroline South as part of the Caroline satellite output can be contacted via < caroline@europaproductions.com >. Both Tom Anderson and Rob Harrison used to work for Radio Caroline in the 80s. According to Peter Moore more former staff will be rejoining Radio Caroline. Among them Dave Owen, Chris Kennedy & Stevie Gordon. The station is tempting Andu Archer, Roger Day, Brian Martin & Ray Clarke to return as well. Email February 6th saw the start of another new Caroline show under the name 'Berlin Service'. A similar short-lived service was operated in the 70s on Caroline. The px is hosted by Claus Grote. The complete programming is to be found on < www.offshore-radio.de >.

Caroline via the Internet

A few months ago the station started with 24 hour a day 7 days a week Internet broadcasts but the most of the output consisted on non-stop music. But since a number of former presenters have joined, much more live output is to be heard via the Internet. One of those former presenters is Stevie Gordon who's nowadays living in Norway, and who was on Caroline in 1979/1980, he's doing a weekly two hour show on the Caroline Internet service. Just surf to < www.radio-caroline.nl > to hear Caroline via the Internet 24 hours a day 7 days a week! Or alternatively surf to < listen.to/radiocaroline >. Apart from the Dutch website there's a German one under control of Martin vd Ven: < www.offshore-radio.de/caroline >. For the the English website surf to < www.radiocaroline.co.uk >.

Miscellaneous info: Radio Caroline studio: 0044-1622684400. The new Faxnumber: 0044-1622684485. And the address: Radio Caroline, 426 Archway Road, Highgate, London N6 4JH, UK. The Offshore Radio Guide < www.offshore-radio.de >.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

International News in Brief

CD Box Final Caroline Day

Offshore Echo's, a French club keeping the Offshore stations alive by means of a quality magazine in English & French being published five times a year, has produced a CD box containing no less than 12 CDs. This box covers the complete final broadcasting day from Radio Caroline as an offshore station, anchored in the Int. waters of the Northsea. The France Radio Club (FRC) used to record all offshore pxs night and day, 7 days a week. Thus in the early/mid 80s no less than 3 tape recorders were non-stop taping pxs of Radio Monique, Caroline and Laser 558. On the CDs the voices of Paul Declan, Alex Rogers, Caroline Martin, Rico en Neil Gates. The box costs £ 42.99. For more info write to: Offshore Echo's, PO Box 1514, London W7 2LL England. Offshore Echo's Magazine's new website:

< www.offshoreechos.com >.

R.N.I. RSL

Monday Jan. 22nd it is announced that this year will see another RNI RSL from the Lightship #18 which was already used in the past. In 1999 the first RSL was made from the Mebo III off Clacton-on-Sea. During the second RSL last year, the ship was anchored in Harwich harbour, the same location she's lying now. May 28th transmissions will begin. This time there's no involvement from Paul Graham- he was the keyfigure during the previous RNI projects- because he's occupying a full time job within the radioindustry. The Lightship #18 is renamed into MEBO III and has been sold by its owner Seacontainers Ltd to Lightvessel Trust. The latter organisation will be housing a museum on the vessel. Apart from that there are plans for an Offshore Radio Museum as well. At present time a crew under leadership of former Caroline engineer Mike Barrington is restoring the ship.

Radio London RSL

Another interesting RSL will take place from Clacton Pier between August 4th-August 31st this year: on that day Big L will be heard on its good old wavelength of 266 metres/ 1134 kHz. Just like last year a portacabbin will house the studio. At this moment work is carried out to design a more

efficient antenna system. At this stage we cannot reveal names of presenters joining 4 week the project.

Offshore Radio Poll

TTS-Mediapro has recently announced: "The 21st Century Offshore Radio Poll". What if...The European Union were to offer a pan European offshore broadcasting licence starting in 2001 to one of the historic offshore stations in recognition of their contribution to the development of European broadcasting? What if... Radio enthusiasts could choose who will get the licence by popular vote? Who would you vote for? To place your vote go to < www.tts-mediapro.co.uk > and make your choice! At the end of 2001 the results will be presented to the EU, with a request for such a licence to be granted. As an ultimate tribute for serving so many people with great programming!

Russian Long Wave Radio returns

The 171 kHz will be quite familiar to a number of radio enthusiasts. In the past few years several stories were written about a new station having a Dutch licence intending to start trms from a kind of artificial island positioned off the Belgian-Dutch coastal line. Name of the project was DeltaRadio but last November it became known that the super power station will be named '171 THE LOUNGE'. The station hopes to start trms Spring 2002. In the mean time Russian pxs are to be heard on 171 kHz coming from the now revived Voice of Russia, a station that ceased trms in 1999. The 1200 kW strong tx has been put again into operation. Broadcasts emanate from Tiblisskaja in Caucasasia.

Ron Bisschop

Ron Bisschop, who once started his radio career under the name Johan Visser on Radio Mi Amigo and also working for a few weeks on Radio Monique, is now on KinK FM every Fri evening 23.00- 01.00. He started his new show 'Bennie & The Jets' mid January programme. In the show old guitar rock is being played. Already in 1995, when KinK FM started, he was opart of the presentation team. KinK FM is a station owned by the Veronica Society and is putting out alternative rock music, mostly back to back.

Joost den Draaijer

Sun January 7th saw the 60th anniversary of the Godfather of Dutch deejays, Willem van Kooten better known as Joost den Draaijer. Under this name he was working for Radio Veronica, Radio Northsea Int., the VPRO, the NOS, the AVRO & Radio Monique. Since 1996 he is founder and shareholder of Arrow Classic Rock. This Dutch commercial station can be heard on AM 828 (25 kW) and on several FM freqs (cable). On the 7th between 18 and 19.30 ACR aired 90 minutes of anecdotes about Joost (Willem) told by acquaintances. ACR is hoping to get a terrestrial FM outlet later this year.

New station

A number of people in England have opted for a licence to start a new regional station covering West and South Yorkshire. Name of the station: Nova. One of the people in the organisation is Terry Bate. This Canadian was active for Caroline Sales in the 1960s as well as in the early 80s when Caroline returned from the Ross Revenge.

Date announced

Mid January it was announced that Chris Cary, also known as Spangles Muldoon, will be released from Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight March 26th. Since his heart attack he is in Parkhurst Prison. Chris Carey was the anchorman behind Dublin based Radio Nova, a station which became very popular in the heydays of Irish free radio.

Top Format in other hands

25 years after founding TopFormat Productions in Haarlem, Ren Groot has sold his jingle company. Once he started as advertising sales man on offshore station Radio Northsea. Fact is it runs in the family: TopFormat Productions is taken over by Ren Groot's son Lennard who will be taking care of business with his companion Frans Kok.

New state-of-the-art vans for Dutch RDR

Since early December last year, The Dutch RDR (Rijksdienst voor Radiocommunicatie), with its headquarters in Groningen, has 4 brandnew vans packed at its disposal packed full with ultra modern equipment to track down radio pirates. Every van is equipped with sophisticated devices worth half a million Dutch guilders. They can cover the radiobands up till 3 Ghz. From now on its possible to calculate distances resulting in much faster determining the exact location of a station. See also < www.etherpiraten.com > or < www.rdr.minvenw.nl >.

Txs to: Hans Knot, Andy Cadier, RadioVisie, SRS-News, Werner Schaueremann.